



# National Agricultural Statistics Service, Pennsylvania Statistical Office

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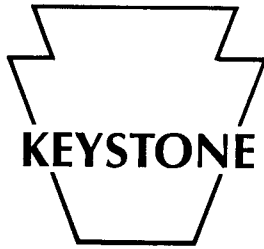
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## Ag Digest

**Note to Survey Respondents:** Results of many surveys we conduct throughout the year are included in this report! Most survey results are not published individually. **Thank you** for taking the time to complete our surveys!

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The Keystone Ag Digest may be found on the Internet at the following address: [www.nass.usda.gov/pa/agdigest.htm](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa/agdigest.htm)

### FARM EMPLOYMENT, HOURS WORKED & WAGE RATES, WEEK OF April 10-16, 2005 <sup>1</sup>

Item	NE II <sup>2</sup>	U. S. <sup>3</sup>
	<i>Thousands</i>	
Farm Employment		
Hired Workers.....	26	746
Expected to be Employed.....		
150 Days or More.....	22	596
149 Days or Less.....	4	150
	<i>Hours</i>	
Hours Worked		
Hired.....	39.8	39.8
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	
Wage Rates for		
All Hired Workers.....	9.65	9.34
Type of Worker		
Field & Livestock Combined.....	9.05	8.73
Field.....	9.24	8.55
Livestock.....	8.62	9.23

<sup>1</sup> Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. <sup>2</sup> NORTHEAST II includes Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware. <sup>3</sup> Excludes AK.

### Hired Workers Down 10 Percent, Wage Rates Up 1 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 978,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 10-16, 2005, down 10 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 746,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 232,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.34 per hour during the April 2005 reference week, up 11 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.55 per hour, up 8 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned \$9.23 per hour compared with \$8.95 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.73 per hour, was up 14 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 39.8 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 2 percent from a year ago. The largest decreases in the number of hired farm workers from last year occurred in California, Florida, and in the Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania), and Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota) regions. In California, a weak El Nino weather pattern brought unseasonably cool temperatures and record rainfall to the southern half of the State from January through March, affecting quality and interrupting planting, harvesting, and crop development. The wet weather had the largest impact on vegetable crops and nursery and floriculture production, which kept the demand for hired workers well behind the previous year. Field work in Florida was hampered by wet soils in northern areas, and estimated citrus production was down considerably from 2004. These factors combined to reduce the need for hired workers. In the Mountain II region, heavy snowfall and rains in Colorado slowed field activities, so fewer workers were required. The cool, wet spring and below normal soil temperatures in the Northeast II region delayed planting of field and vegetable crops and slowed the development of hay and pastures. Thus, the demand for hired workers was lower. In the Northern Plains region, wet conditions limited field activities and lessened the need for hired workers.

The largest increases in the number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi), Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico), and Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia) regions. Ideal weather conditions in the Southern Plains region allowed land preparation and planting to progress rapidly, increasing the need for field workers. In the Delta region, Louisiana's warm, dry weather more than offset the wet conditions experienced in Arkansas and Mississippi, which led to greater demand for hired workers. In the Mountain III region, continued expansion in the dairy, vegetable, nursery, and greenhouse industries necessitated more hired workers. Strong demand from vegetable, tobacco, and Christmas tree operations in the Appalachian I region kept worker numbers above last year.

Hired farm worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Southern Plains, Mountain III, Northern Plains, and Florida regions. The higher wages in the Southern Plains were due to a larger concentration of full time workers. In the Mountain III and Florida regions, wages were up due to a higher percentage of skilled vegetable, nursery, and greenhouse workers. Wages in the Northern Plains region were higher because of more salaried workers putting in fewer hours, which pushed their hourly wage higher.

# PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, MAY 2005

Commodity	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		May 2004	Apr 2005	May 2005 <sup>1</sup>	May 2004	Apr 2005	May 2005 <sup>1</sup>
<i>Dollars</i>							
Corn.....	Bu.	3.54	2.37	2.29	2.87	2.00	1.92
Wheat, Winter <sup>2</sup> .....	Bu.	-	-	-	3.72	3.27	3.13
Oats.....	Bu.	<sup>5</sup>	1.99	1.98	1.70	1.65	1.58
Barley <sup>2</sup> .....	Bu.	-	-	-	2.78	2.32	2.53
Hay, Dry All .....	Ton	137.00	124.00	128.00	101.00	96.90	107.00
Dry Alfalfa .....	Ton	150.00	146.00	141.00	109.00	103.00	116.00
Dry Other.....	Ton	119.00	109.00	110.00	78.30	75.40	76.10
Apples, Fresh Use .....	Lb.	.202	.208	.191	.296	.170	.172
Potatoes .....	Cwt.	8.30	8.65	8.80	6.47	6.17	6.71
Cows, Slaughter.....	Cwt.	52.60	55.30	58.30	52.50	57.10	58.70
Steers & Heifers.....	Cwt.	88.20	89.60	89.70	92.60	98.30	96.90
Calves .....	Cwt.	115.00	127.00	130.00	121.00	140.00	141.00
Barrows & Gilts .....	Cwt.	54.70	48.10	53.00	57.30	51.50	56.10
Sows.....	Cwt.	39.10	40.60	40.50	43.50	41.70	41.70
Eggs <sup>3</sup> .....	Doz.	.530	.260	.240	.472	.261	.236
Milk, Fluid Grade .....	Cwt.	20.60	16.60	-	19.30	15.20	14.90
Manufactured Grade ...	Cwt.	21.10	14.70	-	18.80	14.70	14.20
All .....	Cwt.	20.60	16.60	16.10	19.30	15.20	14.90
Milk Cows <sup>4</sup> .....	Head	-	1,700.00	-	-	1,770.00	

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary. <sup>2</sup> Pennsylvania price not published on monthly basis, average price is published annually. <sup>3</sup> Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. <sup>4</sup> Quarterly (Jan., Apr., July, Oct.). <sup>5</sup> Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms.

## MAY FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UNCHANGED FROM LAST MONTH

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in May, at 122, based on 1990-92=100, is unchanged from April. The Crop and Livestock Indices are unchanged. Producers received higher commodity prices for hogs, strawberries, hay, and potatoes. Lower prices were received for lettuce, broccoli, asparagus, and dairy. The overall index is also affected by the 3-year average seasonal change in the mix of commodities producers sell. Increased average marketings of cantaloupe, sweet corn, grapes, and broilers offset decreased marketings of cattle, dairy, calves, and asparagus.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 7 points (5.4 percent) from May 2004. The Food Commodities Index, at 126, is unchanged from last month but 5 points (3.8 percent) from May 2004.

Feed Grains & Hay: The May index is 97, up 2.1 percent from last month but 24 percent below May 2004. The corn price, at \$1.92 per bushel, is down 8 cents from last month and 95 cents below May 2004. The all hay price, at \$107 per ton, is \$10.10 above April and up \$6.00 from last May.

Livestock & Products: The May index, at 122, is unchanged from last month but down 8.3 percent from May 2004. Compared to a year ago, prices are higher for cattle, calves, and turkeys but lower for dairy, broilers, eggs, and hogs.

Dairy Products: The May index, at 114, is down 1.7 percent from a month ago and 23 percent lower than a year ago. The May all milk price of \$14.90 is down 30 cents from last month and down \$4.40 from May 2004. The fluid grade milk price is down 30 cents from the previous month and the manufactured grade milk price is 50 cents below April.

## U.S. PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS <sup>1</sup>

Commodity	Unit	May 2004	Apr 2005	May 2005
		<i>Dollars</i>		
Wheat.....	Bu.	10.10	10.30	10.30
Corn.....	Bu.	6.78	6.92	6.91
All Milk, Sold to Plants <sup>2</sup> .....	Cwt.	35.20	36.60	36.60
Wool.....	Lb.	1.57	1.69	1.69
Barley.....	Bu.	6.72	7.01	7.00
Oats.....	Bu.	3.95	4.11	4.10
Potatoes.....	Cwt.	15.30	15.60	15.60
Rye.....	Bu.	6.31	6.60	6.59
Soybeans.....	Bu.	15.90	16.70	16.70
Apples, For Fresh Use <sup>3</sup> .....	Lb.	.529	.543	.542
Beef Cattle.....	Cwt.	171.00	179.00	179.00
Calves.....	Cwt.	229.00	244.00	243.00
Hogs.....	Cwt.	106.00	111.00	111.00
Lambs.....	Cwt.	202.00	218.00	217.00
Sheep.....	Cwt.	84.00	87.80	87.70
Eggs.....	Doz.	1.70	1.75	1.75
Turkeys, Live.....	Lb.	1.030	1.050	1.050

<sup>1</sup> Parity prices are computed under the provisions of Title III, Subtitle a, Section 301 (a) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 as amended by the Agricultural Acts of 1948, 1949, and 1956. <sup>2</sup> Seasonally adjusted price as percentage of parity price. <sup>3</sup> Equivalent packinghouse-door returns for CA, NY (apples only). Price at point of first sale for other states.

**COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS**  
**APRIL 30, 2005**

Apples in cold storage reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 1,791,000 bushels on April 30, 2005, compared to 2,002,000 bushels on April 30, 2004. The three varieties with the largest fresh market and processing reported stocks in bushels were: York with 537,000; Rome with 510,000; and Golden Delicious with 311,000 bushels.

Total apple stocks in Pennsylvania totaled 75,222,000 pounds on April 30, 2005, compared to 84,020,000 pounds on April 30, 2004. There were no pears stocks in cold storage on April 30, 2005, which is similar to April 30, 2004.

Nationally, frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on April 30, 2005 were greater than year earlier levels for pork, vegetables, chicken, butter, and cheese.

Butter stocks were up 23 percent from last month and up 5 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were down 3 percent last month, but up 3 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were up 4 percent from last month and up 26 percent from the previous year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 10 percent from last month and up 85 percent from last year.

**STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, UNITED STATES**

Commodity	Apr 30, 2004	Mar 31, 2005	Apr 30, 2005
	<i>(000) Lbs.</i>		
Butter .....	155,718	132,460	163,426
Cheese, Total Natural.....	767,568	741,739	772,657
Eggs, Frozen .....	20,906	18,548	18,852
Poultry, Total Frozen .....	1,195,614	1,089,852	1,145,409
Chicken.....	645,821	672,686	694,710
Turkeys .....	548,773	416,846	450,427
Fruits, Frozen .....	704,805	753,493	703,399
Fruit Juices, Frozen .....	2,316,073	1,896,430	1,977,538
Vegetables, Total Frozen .....	1,467,921	1,767,633	1,609,517
Potatoes, Total Frozen .....	1,158,702	1,091,899	1,169,613
Meats, Total Frozen.....	883,600	931,563	906,548
Beef, Total Frozen .....	421,180	372,404	326,697
Pork, Total Frozen .....	448,550	543,677	563,464

**PENNSYLVANIA APPLES IN COLD STORAGE, APRIL 2005**

Variety	April 30, 2004					April 30, 2005				
	Fresh Market <sup>1</sup>		Processing		Total	Fresh Market <sup>1</sup>		Processing		Total
	Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.		Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.	
	(1,000) Bushels									
York .....	0	13	110	343	466	0	0	48	489	537
Stayman.....	2	4	10	0	16	4	2	11	1	18
Rome .....	0	34	125	248	407	2	33	175	300	510
Red Delicious.....	0	207	25	75	307	5	115	22	56	198
Golden Delicious...	0	33	265	200	498	2	58	118	133	311
Gala .....	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	2	0	0	2
McIntosh .....	1	8	2	0	11	1	4	0	11	16
Fuji .....	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	12	20	6	0	38
Other <sup>2</sup> .....	5	28	124	140	297	7	31	55	68	161
Total.....	8	327	661	1,006	2,002	33	265	435	1,058	1,791

<sup>1</sup> Includes total quantities on hand; graded and ungraded, packed or loose on the last day of the month specified. <sup>2</sup> Includes miscellaneous varieties and some quantities of above varieties not identified.

**APPLE & PEAR STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, PA & U.S., APRIL 30, 2005**

Commodity	All Warehouse Stocks		
	April 30, 2004	March 31, 2005	April 30, 2005
<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>	<i>(1,000) Lbs.</i>		
APPLES:			
Regular Storage .....	28,094	42,000	19,656
Controlled Atmosphere.....	55,926	69,720	55,566
Total Apples .....	84,020	111,720	75,222
PEARS:			
Bartletts .....	0	0	0
Other Varieties .....	0	0	0
Total Pears .....	0	0	0
<b>UNITED STATES</b>			
APPLES:			
Regular Storage .....	89,851	207,320	93,610
Controlled Atmosphere.....	1,358,010	2,588,717	1,957,788
Total Apples .....	1,447,861	2,796,037	2,051,398
PEARS:			
Bartletts .....	2,052	255	225
Other Varieties .....	79,305	104,889	62,045
Total Pears .....	81,357	105,144	62,270

## MONTHLY POULTRY SUMMARY

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Apr 2004	Mar 2005	Apr 2005	Apr 2004	Mar 2005	Apr 2005
Layers .....	Thous.	23,949	24,399	23,943	342,612	347,272	343,975
Eggs Per 100 Layers .....	Number	2,238	2,398	2,301	2,148	2,225	2,148
Eggs Produced .....	Million	536	585	551	7,358	7,727	7,388
Chick Hatch-Egg Type.....	Thous.	6,117	5,201	4,596	37,466	41,824	38,267
Chick Hatch-Broiler Type.....	Thous.	13,104	14,870	14,332	774,629	815,782	789,780
Poults Placed.....	Thous.	-	-	-	24,644	23,376	23,540

### EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in **Pennsylvania** during April 2005 totaled 551 million eggs, up 3 percent from the 536 million produced in April 2004. The total number of layers averaged 23.9 million during April, relatively unchanged from one year earlier. Production per 100 layers was 2,301 eggs during the month, an increase of 63 eggs from April 2004.

Egg-type chicks hatched during April 2005 totaled 4.60 million, down 25 percent from the 6.12 million hatched the previous April. Broiler-type chicks hatched totaled 14.3 million during April 2005, up 9 percent from the 13.1 million hatched during the same month last year.

**United States'** egg production totaled 7.39 billion during April 2005, up slightly from last year. The total number of layers during April averaged 344 million, up slightly from the average number of layers during April 2004. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,148 eggs, unchanged from April 2004.

Egg-type chicks hatched in the United States during April totaled 38.3 million, up 2 percent from April 2004. Broiler-type hatch totaled 790 million, up 2 percent from the previous April. There were 23.5 million turkey poults placed in the United States during April 2005, down 5 percent from the placements during the same month a year ago.

*County estimates for 2004 can be found online!  
Check out NASS's Homepage at  
[www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)  
(Click on 'QuickSTATS')*

### COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, APR 2005

Specie	Unit	Pennsylvania	United States
Red Meat Prod.....	Mil. Lbs.	89.3	3,622
Cattle.....	Thous. Hd.	66.4	2,560
	Mil. Lbs. Live	81.4	3,123
Calves.....	Thous. Hd.	13.9	62
	Mil. Lbs. Live	5.6	22
Hogs.....	Thous. Hd.	216.5	8,444
	Mil. Lbs. Live	52.8	2,286
Sheep & Lambs .....	Thous. Hd.	7.2	2221
	Mil. Lbs. Live	.7	31

### LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, in **Pennsylvania** during April 2005 totaled 89.3 million pounds, down 12 percent from April 2004. Beef production, at 81.4 million pounds live weight, was down 12 percent from April 2004. Total head slaughtered was 66,400, down 16 percent. Live weight averaged 1,227 pounds, up 54 pounds from last year. Veal production was 5.6 million pounds live weight, down 3 percent from last year. Calf slaughter of 13,900 head was down 14 percent from last year. Average live weight increased 45 pounds to 401 pounds. Pork production was 52.8 million pounds live weight, down 7 percent from last year. Total head slaughtered was 216,500, down 7 percent from April 2004. Average live weight is down 1 pound from last year to 244 pounds. Lamb and mutton production during April 2005 was 677,000 pounds live weight, down 22 percent. The number slaughtered was 7,200, down 13 percent. Average live weight decreased 12 pounds to 94 pounds.

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